



Long Term Care Coordinating Council

Regular Meeting
March 18, 2009
10:00 am
State House Room 313
Providence, RI

Draft Minutes

Chairwoman Lt. Governor Roberts	Bonnie Larson
Ray Rusin	Cynthia Conant-Arp
Rick Baccus	Mary Benway
Hugh Hall	Jim Flanagan
Kathleen Heren	Maureen Maigret
Ellen Mauro	Jennifer Wood
Elaina Goldstein	Susan Saccoccia Olson
Ken Pariseau	Jacquelyn Kung
Holly Garvey	Paula Parker
Jim Nyberg	Elizabeth Shelov
Karen Amado	Kathleen Kelly
Alan Tavares	Dottie Santagata
Liz Morancy	Stacy Paterno
Bonnie Sekeres	Joan Wood
Susan Sweet	David Bell
Maria Barros	Alicia Einhorn
Lillian Magee Lloyd	Daniel Meuse

Chairwoman Roberts called the meeting to order at 10:10am

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

The chair recognized Ray Rusin from the Department of Health to report surveying results of the office of facilities regulation. Mr. Rusin stated that in February there were 10 surveys with no citations for sub-standard quality of care. The office also revisited 9 facilities that were being monitored due to previous citations, there was one new citation for sub-standard quality of care.

Mr. Rusin also discussed the changes in the former Haven health facilities. The facilities were purchased by Genesis Healthcare and have simply dropped the word Haven from their names.

The chair introduced Bonnie Sekeres to discuss the report of the discharge planning workgroup. Ms. Sekeres first introduced Maria Barros, a council member who attended many of the workgroup meetings. Ms. Barros, who is affiliated with a home care agency stated that since the workgroup commenced, she has seen much better communications from the discharge planners that took part in the group with her agency.

Ms. Sekeres gave a basic description of the work of the group. The first meeting was in September and was just discharge planners. It was the first time many of them became aware of the global Medicaid waiver. Some of the major challenges that face the discharge planners include the short notice for discharge and the fact that many patients and their families do not understand what their insurance actually covers.

The workgroup began meeting regularly in November and address many issues surrounding discharge planning. The recommendations of the group were: a structure for formal training for discharge planning, an online resource for patients and their families to see all of the options available for long term care, a paper based resource while the online resource is being developed, a family guide for preparing for long term care decision, and continued meetings of discharge planners to allow for information sharing and updates on government programs.

The chair introduced Dan Meuse to discuss the global waiver. Mr. Meuse stated that the Department of Human Services is currently putting together a task force to deal with the issues of implementing the reforms surrounding the global waiver. The Department reached out to the Long Term Care Coordinating Council for members.

The council discussed that the General Assembly, as part of Article 17 of the FY2009 budget, has oversight over all of the waiver implementation, but the joint commission has not been seated yet.

The chair again introduced Dan Meuse to discuss long term care issues in the budget proposal. The biggest issue in the FY2010 budget proposal is the proposed elimination of RI Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Elderly, RIPAE. RIPAE covers persons who do not qualify for Medicare Part D because of age or employment status. It also provides assistance with the so-called "Donut Hole" provision for Medicare where a person is responsible for prescription costs after a certain amount has been spent. Additionally, a number of programs like heating assistance and utility shut-off moratoriums are tied to RIPAE eligibility.

The council discussed the proposal and a motion was made to formally oppose the proposal to eliminate RIPAE. The motion passed unanimously.

The council discussed the budget proposals that continue to contradict the stated goals of the waiver. It was suggested that for the next meeting, the council should invite Secretary Designate Alexander to discuss the budget proposals and process, especially how it relates to the goals of

the waiver and the departments' budgets. The council discussed that the governor requested that the proposed cuts to nursing homes be rescinded because of stimulus money enhancing the Medicaid budget.

The council discussed an upcoming hearing on a regulatory change for the Department of Elderly Affairs' home and community care for the elderly program. A representative of the department stated that the changes would restructure the payment model for the program, but that it would not change the amounts that providers are paid, nor would it change eligibility for the program. The changes were generated by requirements by CMS for the global waiver. The hearing will be April 21 at 1pm at the Arnold Conference Center.

The council discussed the co-pay program. Dottie Santagata from Cornerstone Adult Day Services stated that her organization has been surveying its participants' families on the effect of an increase in co-pay rates. She stated that everyone that replied stated that an increased rate would result in a lowered utilization of the services.

The council continued to discuss proposals in the budget, including the proposal to cut dental benefits for Rite Care parents, the RIDE Program and Assisted Living.

The council also discussed legislation of interest to the council. One piece of legislation would add any person with a dementia diagnosis to the missing senior alert program. The Senior Agenda Coalition also has a bill updating the Perry/Sullivan Act. Another bill would add shared living arrangements with 2-5 patients be regulated under the Assisted Living statute.

In new business, Paula Parker from the Department of Elderly Affairs introduced Elizabeth Shelov as a new member of the Department's staff.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47am.